

**GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF**

**BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**6.1 LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES**

**6.1.1 General**

Basic Local Exchange Service is provided by means of station, wire, switching and other facilities, plant and equipment to enable the establishment of telephone communications between stations in the same or different exchanges at monthly rates as set forth below. The facilities, plant and equipment used to provide Basic Local Exchange Service are also used in the furnishing of toll telephone services at rates applicable for such services.

Network Access Charge is the recurring monthly charge for residential or business service that accounts for network services through the protector.

Monthly Exchange Rates as authorized by the Georgia Public Service Commission are shown in 6.1.2 of this tariff. The rates specified herein entitle subscribers to access all exchange access lines in the subscriber's county within the same LATA and all exchange access lines bearing the central office designations of the subscriber's exchange.

Maps which indicate and define the exchange and base rate area limits of the respective exchanges are filed with the Georgia Public Service Commission as part of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity granted by the Commission. The business office also has base rate and exchange area maps.

**6.1.2 Base Rates**

	<b>Residential</b>		<b>Business</b>
Network Access Line Rate (per line)	\$ 19.54	(I)	\$ 27.25
KEY System Access Line (KL)	N/A		\$ 28.85
PBX/PABX Access Line (TL)	N/A		\$ 38.15
DID Access Line Trunk	N/A		\$ 60.00
and \$10.00 per 20 numbers used as reserve			

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**6.4 LOW-INCOME PROGRAM**

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The Company, as part of its obligations as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, offers a low-income assistance program. This program, Lifeline Assistance, is offered under the terms and conditions provided below:

**6.4.1 Lifeline Assistance**

**A. General**

Lifeline Assistance is a non-transferable retail service offering for which qualifying low-income subscribers pay reduced charges, as provided for below. Lifeline Assistance enables eligible subscribers to pay reduced charges for voice telephony service that includes the following services: voice-grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent; local usage; access to emergency services; and toll limitation.

**B. Regulations**

Subscribers are eligible for Lifeline Assistance if:

1. The subscriber's household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or
2. The subscriber, or one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household, receives benefits from at least one of the following qualifying programs:

Medicaid;  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps;  
Supplemental Security Income (SSI);  
Federal Public Housing Assistance;  
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);  
National School Lunch Program's free lunch program;  
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);  
Low Income Senior Citizens discount plan offered by a local gas or power company

3. Other eligibility requirements may be established by the Commission.

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**6.4 LOW-INCOME PROGRAM (Cont'd)**

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**6.4.1 Lifeline Assistance (Cont'd)**

**B. Regulations (Cont'd)**

4. Each subscriber to Lifeline Assistance must certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that s/he receives benefits under a program outlined in sub-paragraphs (B)(1) through (B)(3), above, and must, on that same document, agree to notify the Company if s/he ceases to participate in the program(s). The certification form shall conform to the requirements described herein, and shall be made available upon request to any subscriber. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators.
5. A subscriber may elect at the time of subscription to Lifeline Assistance to receive toll limitation as part of Lifeline Assistance. "Toll limitation" is a service that allows a subscriber to elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from the subscriber's residence.
6. Lifeline Assistance will not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges, unless the Company first demonstrates to the Commission that the Company would incur substantial costs, that the Company offers toll limitation without charge, and that telephone subscribership among low-income subscribers in the Company's service area is greater than or equal to the national subscribership rate for low-income consumers. For purposes of this paragraph, a "low-income consumer" is one with an income below the poverty level for a family of four residing in Georgia. The Company shall follow all applicable notice provisions as established, from time to time, by the Commission, as part of the waiver process, and to implement a waiver, if granted. The Company may reapply for the waiver as necessary.
7. The Company may not collect a service deposit in order to initiate Lifeline Assistance if the qualifying low-income subscriber voluntarily elects toll blocking from the Company, where available or if the qualifying low-income subscriber elects a calling plan that does not distinguish between toll and non-toll calls in its pricing. If toll blocking is unavailable, then the Company may charge a service deposit.

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**6.4 LOW-INCOME PROGRAM (Cont'd)**

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**6.4.1 Lifeline Assistance (Cont'd)**

- C. Effective August 1, 2012, the Lifeline credit available to an eligible customer in Georgia is equal to the total of federal support as established by the Federal Communications Commission. The amount of credit will not exceed the charge for local service, which includes the access line, the Subscriber Line Charge and local usage.
- D. The Company shall apply the baseline payments received by the administrator of the federal Lifeline Assistance program to waive the qualifying customer's federal Subscriber Line Charge. The Company shall apply any additional federal support amount to the qualifying customer's basic local exchange service rate.
- E. To be eligible for Lifeline Assistance, qualifying customers must subscribe to a flat-rate basic local exchange service offering that is made available in the Company's service area.
- F. Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers shall first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding toll charges.
- G. All aspects of the Lifeline Assistance program shall be subject to the interpretation of applicable Federal regulations and any directives which may from time to time be prescribed by the Universal Service Administrative Company. These rules are separate and apart from any rules prescribed as part of a state Universal Service program.

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REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

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**PINELAND TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE (SAC 220377)**

**ATTACHMENT - LINE 3017**

**ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**